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generalization, it might have been added, exceedingly hard to banish from our minds. The true causes of expansion in India in spite of opposition at home; the meaning of the occupation and settlement of Australia; the transition to responsible government in the colonies; the change in the idea of empire since the middle of the nineteenth century; a quite impartial statement of Boer troubles and Irish discontent, yet with clear indication of their relation to modern progress and civilization; and a vivid account of changes that have rapidly developed under the stress of war—these are some of the outstanding features of great value in the book. It deserves the widest circulation and study.

G. B. ADAMS.

The Constitutional and Parliamentary History of Ireland till the Union. By J. G. SWIFT MACNEILL, M.P. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1917. Pp. xxxi, 516. 10 sh. 6 d.)

PROFESSOR MACNEILL adopted a novel plan in preparing his book on the constitutional and parliamentary history of Ireland up to the time of the Union. Nine out of ten students of the constitutional history of Ireland, confronted with the absorbing task of writing a history of it, would have been inclined to take the years from the repeal of Poynings's Law in 1782 to the Union in 1800, and to have described the constitution and its working during these eighteen years. Admittedly the Parliament of Ireland was at its best in these years. Poynings's Law was of the past; so were the Undertakers; the privy council in Dublin was shorn of the power it long exercised of "cushioning" bills passed by Parliament which were en route to London for allowance or disallowance there; and from 1793 Roman Catholics were freed from their disabilities, and could exercise the parliamentary franchise. The Castle, with all that Dublin Castle has always meant in the inner political life of Ireland, survived. Some of its power went with the repeal of Poynings's law; but it was still an interesting and sometimes, as in the earlier years, a sinister institution. Professor MacNeill did not adopt this plan—a plan with much to commend it. Instead of any such plan he hit on the novel idea of taking Butt's epoch-making speech of 1873 on the Irish Parliament and the constitution of Ireland; and with this masterly presentation of the subject—a presentation that Butt made in a speech apparently not more than an hour and a half in length, at the Home Rule conference of 1873—as his background or starting-point, Professor MacNeill has filled in the details, drawing for this purpose very largely on writings or speeches of all the earlier authorities on the constitutional and parliamentary history of Ireland.

Proceeding in the manner which has been described, Professor MacNeill begins with Mountmorres's *Irish Parliaments*, and works through the whole range of authorities from Mountmorres's permanently serviceable treatise, to Lecky and Froude, with some drafts from writers on

Irish history of even more recent times than these two well-known authorities on Ireland and its political institutions and political life and political leaders. Biography, memoirs, and letters have been similarly brought into service. Unfortunately Professor MacNeill has failed us as regards a bibliography, or a table of sources and authorities. But it is obvious from the text that in the preparation of the volume, few, if any, worth-while sources of Irish history have been overlooked. The plan that Professor MacNeill adopted has its advantages; also its disadvantages. One of the obvious disadvantages is that the plan adopted, despite the extreme care and great skill with which it has been worked out, gives the book the appearance of a compilation—an appearance which is made a little more striking by the author's method of inserting sources and authorities, printed in italics, in the text instead of at the foot of the page.

One of the most valuable contributions to Irish history embodied in the book—Professor MacNeill's address of 1911 on Irish parliamentary life—is in the notes or appendixes. It was an address delivered before the Eighty Club of London, when the members of the club, at the outset of a tour of Ireland, were assembled in a hall in the Bank of Ireland—in a room that until the Union in 1800 had been the chamber of the House of Lords of the Parliament of Ireland. The subject, the occasion, and the place of delivery, were all such as to appeal strongly to a student like Professor MacNeill, whose sympathies are so obviously with Ireland and its nationalism, and who is steeped in Irish history and in the traditions and lore of the Irish Parliament and of the city in which that parliament held its sessions from 1559 to the Union. The result of these auspicious conditions was an address of singular interest and of permanent value. It was an address so marked in character as to make one wish that there was a little more of Professor MacNeill, and a little less of quotation and extract, in the book to which this sketch of Irish Parliamentary Life is appended merely as note C. As it stands, Professor MacNeill's book is in a class by itself; for while within the last fifteen or twenty years there have been three or four additions to the history of the Irish Parliament, it is difficult to recall any work of modern times that is concerned with the constitution of Ireland in the days before the Union.

EDWARD PORRITT.

Economic Development of Modern Europe. By FREDERIC AUSTIN OGG, Associate Professor of Political Science in the University of Wisconsin. (New York: Macmillan Company. 1917. Pp. xvi, 657. \$2.50.)

"It is the purpose of this book to indicate the origins, and to explain with some fullness the nature and effects, of a number of the more important economic changes and achievements in Europe during the past three hundred years" (preface). The volume falls into four parts, of